

control of nuisance seals and sea lions, whose robust populations have been of growing concern in coastal California.

Reauthorize and improve the John H. Prescott funding assistance program to allow an improved nationwide response to stranding and entanglement events.

Clarify the provisions regarding the import and export of Native marine mammal handicrafts.

Modernize the system of penalties and fines for violations of the Act for the first time in 30 years.

Expand the list of fisheries included in the take reduction team process to include both commercial and non-commercial fisheries using comparable gear.

Contrary to the efforts of others in this Congress to weaken the MMPA through strategic piecemeal amendments, I have always urged that the MMPA deserves nothing less than a comprehensive reauthorization.

The Resources Committee Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, to the immeasurable credit of Chairman WAYNE GILCREST and his predecessor, the former Chairman JAMES SAXTON, invested significant time and resources over the past 4 years in conducting a series of oversight hearings regarding implementation of the Act and needs for reauthorization. This substantive analysis has not been squandered and has, in fact, been incorporated into this legislation.

This bill also reflects the best of the ideas forwarded by the Administration in their proposal regarding priorities and recommendations for reauthorization of the Act. Moreover, this bill incorporates the best ideas offered by a wide range of stakeholders ranging from the sportfishing and public display industries to the animal welfare and environmental communities.

Maintaining protection for marine mammals need not be a contentious or partisan issue. I urge support of this comprehensive and precautionary-minded reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

#### ALLEN-BRADLEY BRAND MARKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2003 Rockwell Automation, a world-leading provider of industrial automation power, control and information solutions, began a year-long celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Allen-Bradley Brand. This outstanding company has a rich history and has made major contributions to the automation industry. Allen-Bradley has also played a significant role as a major employer and contributor to the economic and cultural growth of the city of Milwaukee.

The extraordinary transformation story of Allen-Bradley starts with the humble beginnings of two young Bradley brothers starting their business in an office over a delicatessen located on Milwaukee's near south side. Today, Rockwell Automation International Inc. has become a \$4 billion industry leader with more than 22,000 employees in 450 locations around the world—serving customers in more

than 80 countries. This story typifies the American dream and a dream realized beyond expectation.

In 1893 Lynde Bradley at the age of fifteen invented a compression rheostat that had the capability of regulating electrical current. His friend Dr. Stanton Allen offered to invest a thousand dollars to develop a prototype crane controller, which would use the newly invented rheostat control, and a business was born. Subsequently Lynde Bradley and Dr. Allen formed Compression Rheostat in 1903. In 1910 the company was renamed Allen-Bradley. After a series of dissolutions, mergers, and acquisitions Rockwell International purchased the company in 1985 for \$1.651 billion, the largest acquisition in the history of the state of Wisconsin.

Since the start of this company there has been a pioneering spirit that valued innovation, creativity and a constant striving for excellence in products. This spirit has driven the company for 100 years.

The Allen-Bradley Brand is a symbol of great corporate strength, pre-eminence in the industrial controls field and an outstanding example of on-going and continuous support of the Milwaukee community. Thank you and congratulations on this 100th anniversary and continued success in the future.

#### INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS BILL

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Southern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. If enacted, this bill will protect approximately 1.6 million acres of land in California.

The State of California has lost over 675,000 acres of California's wild lands since 1978. One can only predict that this harmful trend will continue as California's population is expected to explode. California is expected to gain 17.7 million more people by 2025—nearly the entire population of New York State. As the population rises, more development will take place. More development often means less open space and the destruction of precious lands. This bill will prevent that destruction.

Thousands of diverse organizations, businesses, and others see the importance of this legislation and have given it their support. Additionally, hundreds of local elected officials have voiced support for the protection of their local areas.

I am pleased to be a part of this effort and look forward to working with Senator BOXER and Congressman THOMPSON to spearhead this effort and protect our natural resources.

#### RECOGNIZING RONN OWENS FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL ASSO- CIATION OF BROADCASTERS' MARCONI AWARD

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ronn Owens, who received the National Association of Broadcasters' prestigious Marconi Award for major market personality of the year on October 2, 2003.

Ronn Owens began his broadcast career in 1968, hosting radio programs in Atlanta, Miami, Cleveland, and Philadelphia before moving to the Bay Area and KGO in 1975.

Over his thirty-five year radio career, Ronn Owens has established himself as the host of the most compelling and thought-provoking morning talk show in Northern California. A half-million fans tune into The Ronn Owens Show every morning to hear his opinions on a range of issues, from popular culture and gossip to current events and politics. He refers to his show as "the ultimate town meeting."

Ronn's guest list reads like a roster of Who's Who among world leaders, top celebrities, personalities, and newsmakers of the day. He has brought his devoted Bay Area audience numerous political figures, such as Al and Tipper Gore, JOHN MCCAIN, Bill Bradley, and Ralph Nader and celebrity personalities, such as tennis player Andre Agassi, theatrical legend Carol Channing, and attorney Johnnie Cochran. Ronn is the newsmen's news man. He has interviewed ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, veteran Washington Correspondent for ABC News Sam Donaldson, NBC's Washington Bureau Chief and Meet the Press host Tim Russert, Hardball host Chris Matthews, and CNN's Wolf Blitzer, to name a few.

Ronn Owens' sense of humor, directness, and intellect has made him a legend in the morning radio talk show industry. Ronn is quoted as saying that he is "just like everybody else—I look at the world around me and comment on it." His fans will forever love Ronn as the man who tickled their funny bones, increased their awareness of national and local issues, and opened their hearts and minds.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a Ronn Owens listener. Over the past seven years, I have gotten to know Ronn as a guest on his show, and I have come to respect him a great deal. I have always found him to be insightful, funny and—even when we are at opposite ends of an issue—fair.

Congratulations, Ronn, on thirty-five years and the Marconi Award. Here's to thirty-five more.

#### HONORING THE MONTEREY PARK COMMUNITY RELATIONS COM- MISSION

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for celebrating cultural diversity in the fourteenth annual Harmony Festival.